

Child and Family Services



March 2007

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This newsletter, specific staff contact information for OCFS staff, and other important information is available on the Office of Child and Family Services webpage at:
<http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/CFS-default.htm>

Legislative and Budget Updates

Governor's Budget

The Governor's Budget appropriated \$493,000 in the second year to support workforce development for children's mental health to underserved areas. This funding will be used to provide eight internship positions for individuals specializing in child psychology or child psychiatry at a Virginia institution of higher learning. The Governor's budget also appropriated \$175,345 in state funds to assume the federal share for the five partially federally funded CSB programs in juvenile detention centers (Chesapeake CSB, Crossroads CSB, Planning District One CSB, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority and Valley CSB).

Legislation

The following summarizes information regarding legislation as of the close of the General Assembly session on Saturday, February 24.

SB 1332 Expands the pool of eligible/mandated children to be served through the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families to include those children who, due to behavioral health problems, may be at-risk for custody relinquishment. The bill has a reenactment clause for implementation next year.

Items from the Conference Committee with relevance for child and family services include:

Item 312 #4c states that: Priority for services is placed on those children who, absent services, are at-risk for custody relinquishment, as determined by the Family Assessment and Planning Team of the locality. This amendment adds language specifying that funding for mental health services for children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and related disorders, which is provided through the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Community Services Boards shall be allocated with priority placed on serving those children who are at-risk for custody relinquishment.

Item 312 #5c This amendment adds \$2.4 million in the second year from the general fund to provide community services to consumers with substance use disorders, including those with opioid and/or methamphetamine addiction, so that they may avoid inappropriate treatment and avoid the use of higher cost treatment options, such as inpatient hospital services. Services will focus on recovery models and the use of best practices. Services

may include detoxification, psychiatry, medication, crisis stabilization, residential and outpatient treatment, case management, and support services such as vocational rehabilitation and employment services.

Item 312 #6c

This amendment provides funding for the development of a “real time” reporting system to allow hospitals to report on the availability of acute public and private psychiatric beds for children and adolescents. The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services will contract with Virginia Health Information to develop and operate the reporting system. State general funds in the amount of \$25,000 are appropriated in the second year of the biennium.

Item 312 #8c

This amendment provides \$900,000 from the general fund the second year for additional mental health services for the nine remaining local or regional juvenile detention centers which do not currently receive state funding for mental health services. It is the intent of the General Assembly that these funds not be used to supplant existing local funds.

Item 302 #6c

This amendment provides funding to expand Medicaid coverage to children and adults in the second year to include reimbursement for substance abuse treatment services. Services may include assessment and evaluation, crisis intervention, case management, outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, and medical detoxification.

Item 279 #2c

This amendment requires the Office of Comprehensive Services to report on the fiscal impact of implementing the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 1332, passed by the 2007 Session of the General Assembly, which expands the pool of eligible children to be served through the Comprehensive Services Act for At-Risk Youth and Families.

HJR 774 mental health services for children; services should be provided and funded by the

state’s system. This resolution recognizes DMHMRSAS as the primary state agency responsible for the planning and delivery of mental health services. This resolution states that neither DSS nor CSA is the default system for the provision of mental health services.

HB 2530; clarifies that retired judges, substitute judges, and special justices are authorized to perform hearings under the Act and to receive compensation. The Supreme Court is required to provide a training program. Patron: Iaquinto. This bill passed the House as of 2/21/07.

Mental Health Law Reform

The OCFS continues to be involved with the Commission on Mental Health Law Reform. The Commission has modified the timetable for its work from October 2007 to sometime in 2008. The Chair, Richard Bonnie has indicated that the timeframe has been adjusted to address concerns been raised by some members of the GA about the scope of the work of the Commission’s charge and the timing of its work. The additional time for completing the report will allow the Commission to conduct research, address data collection needs, and the various Task Forces to carry out their own work before presenting its report to the Commission. Final reports from each Task force will be delivered to the Commission in November. The Commission will meet November 29-30. The children’s Task Force has three subcommittees that continue to meet. Below is information regarding the subcommittees, their chairs and the meeting dates:

- Juvenile Justice- John Oliver, Chairperson
- Services and Custody Relinquishment- Charlotte McNulty, Chairperson. Meeting: Feb 15th at State Supreme Court Building
- Involuntary Commitment –Judge Deborah Paxon, Chairperson. Meeting: Feb 27th at State Supreme Court Building

The full task force on Children and Adolescents will meet March 2, 2007 10-3 at the State Supreme Court Building.

JLARC Report on CSA

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission issued its draft study report, "Evaluation of Children's Residential Services Delivered Through the Comprehensive Services Act" on December 11. Overall, the study found that Virginia's regulatory environment does not appear to adequately protect the health and safety of children. The outcomes of children who receive CSA-funded residential care appear to be mixed, suggesting that such costly services may not be consistently effective.

The report calls for strengthening licensing standards and enforcement efforts and implementing strategies to control the cost of residential services. Noting that most children's residential facilities appear to charge appropriate rates, JLARC reported that some providers may charge high rates and may have excessive profit margins. The report recommends improving access to reliable information to enhance market efficiency without formal rate setting.

The CSA program, adopted in 1992, served 16,272 children in 2005, one fourth of whom received residential services that cost approximately \$194 million. Costs continue to rise, while gaps in community-based services are still identified as a problem.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities Demonstration Waiver

Virginia is one of 10 states recently awarded a Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Community Alternatives to Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) Demonstration Waiver. The successful application submitted by DMAS was the result of a collaborative effort that included the Office of Child and Family Services and other stakeholders. While the demonstration does not bring any new funding into Virginia, it allows the state to demonstrate a waiver focusing on children under 21 who have been in PRTFs for 90 or more days and who meet other specific Medicaid eligibility criteria. Some of the services selected to be part of the Demonstration are those that are most likely to ensure the child's success in a community placement, such as:

- Respite care;

- In-home services;
- Companion services (behavioral or wrap around aide);
- Training and counseling services for unpaid caregivers (i.e. families);
- Environmental modifications/physical adaptation to a child; and
- Consultative and therapeutic services to assist family members and caregivers.

Study of Children's Services Ombudsman

The Commission on Youth (COY) voted at its November 28th meeting to continue the study of an office of children's services ombudsman for another year. Since the COY meeting, the COY staff are gathering information for the continuation of this study in 2007. Staff will make a formal proposal to the Commission at its spring 2007 meeting relating to the 2007 study activities and plan. More will be available at that time.

Early Intervention Update

Draft Application for the Part C Grant

A draft of Virginia's State Application for Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Grant Award Under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has been made available on the Infant & Toddler of Virginia website at www.infantva.org. The document is available for a 60-day public exposure period that began on January 27, 2007 and concludes on March 27, 2007. The document is also being made available for a 30-day public comment period beginning February 26, 2007 and concluding on March 27, 2007. The public availability period and the public comment period have been implemented in order to meet the requirements of the office of Special Education Services (OSEP). The federal application is due to OSEP no later than April 20, 2007 in order to ensure that federal Part C funding is received on July 01, 2007.

During the public comment period of February 26-March 27, 2007, please submit all electronic public comments to karen.durst@co.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov or written public comments to:

Karen Durst, Part C Technical Assistance Consultant

DMHMRSAS
Part C Early Intervention, 9th Floor
1220 Bank Street
Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Draft Local Contract for Part C

A draft of the SFY 2007 Local Contract for Continuing Participation in Part C has been made available on the Infant & Toddler of Virginia website at www.infantva.org. This document has been made available in order maximize the opportunities for stakeholder participation and input. A response form is being made available on the website.

Please submit your responses by March 01, 2007 either electronically to Mary Ann Discenza at maryann.discenza@co.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov or in writing to:

Mary Ann Discenza, Part C Coordinator
DMHMRSAS
Part C Early Intervention, 9th Floor
1220 Bank Street
Post Office Box 1797
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1797

Draft Policies and Procedures for Part C

Due to the December 03, 2004 signing of Public Law 108-466 reauthorizing IDEA, the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia has revised the Commonwealth of Virginia 2001 Policies and Procedures for the Implementation of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As required by federal law, the revised policies and procedures were made available for a 60-day public comment period that began December 01, 2006 and concluded January 29, 2007. Public hearings were also held in Richmond and Roanoke, Virginia. Review and consideration of the public comments are underway and changes are being made accordingly. The revised policies and procedures will be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, along with the required Part C Federal Application, by April 20, 2007.

Child and Family Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (330 F)

Catherine Hancock and Shirley Ricks presented information on the Waiver Grant application submitted by Virginia. Ten states were awarded this grant; Alaska, South Carolina, Maryland, Mississippi, Kansas, Florida, Indiana, Georgia, Montana and Virginia. The grant permits nine months to plan for services and for enhancing collaboration and partnership, the grant adds waiver services for children in the community that they would not normally get, and children must be in residential treatment for 90 days and would be eligible for additional support when they are discharged back to the community.

Maria Brown and Lee Huntington gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Healthy Families Virginia – Prevention of adverse experience for children birth-5 in Virginia. The presentation provided a comprehensive review of Health Family initiative in 38 programs in VA serving 90 communities.

Vicki Hardy-Murrell for the Federation of Families reported on upcoming events that include a rally on Jan 15th, starting from St Paul and marching to the General Assembly, Save the Date- for National Children's Mental Health Awareness day which will be on May 8, 2007, Strong Roots for a Healthy Future statewide conference will be held July 27-28, 2007 at the Sheraton Richmond West hotel.

The committee has been discussing the 2007 legislative report and looked at timeline for recommendations for the report which is due in June. Some potential topics for the topic include: allocating funding for positions in the OCFS, increased resources for case management for children with behavioral health issues, and support for Child Abuse Prevention initiatives. The annual report to the General Assembly is due June 2007. Preliminary recommendations from the various sub-committees are due in April.

Additionally, the committee established a sub-committee for children with MR. Potential MR subcommittee members: Mary Cole, chair, Barbara Shue, Shirley Ricks, Vicki-Hardy-Murrell, Chris

Reilly, John Eisenberg, Susan Neal, Jim Gillespie, a representative from DMAS, and the Child and Family Council. A priority for this subcommittee might be Family Support Services and funding including funding for family members who do not access the wavier.

Virginia Federation of Families

DMHMRSAS continues to support the work of the Virginia Federation of Families (FOF) in providing resource coordination for individuals, training opportunities for parents and family members, and assisting with the efforts of the various support groups. As always, the VA FOF has been very busy as they work to inform and empower families of children with special needs. VA FOF participates on a variety of state and local boards, commissions and workgroups advocating for children and families and they remain a positive force as we work to transform our current service delivery system. For additional information on the VA FOF or parent involvement, please contact Ms. Vicki Hardy-Murrell, Director, VA Federation of Families at 1-877-264-8366 or via internet at www.vafof.org. VA FOF is a non-profit corporation. Primary funding for VA FOF and VA-INFO is provided by the VA Department of MH/MR/SAS with federal Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Block Grant funds. Donations are welcome.

System of Care Demonstration Projects

Four CSBs are continuing the implementation of evidence-based practices within systems of care with support from the OCFS. The goal of these projects is to demonstrate the efficacy of evidence-based practices in communities throughout the Commonwealth to develop more seamless systems of care. The projects report quarterly progress and data to DMHMRSAS and collaborate regularly in technical assistance meetings with OCFS staff.

Current System of Care/Evidence-Based Practice Demonstration Projects:

1. Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (FY 2006, Multisystemic Therapy)
2. Planning District One (FY 2006, Functional Family Therapy)

3. Cumberland Mountain CSB (FY 2007, Functional Family Therapy)
4. Alexandria CSB (FY 2007, Functional Family Therapy)

OCFS completed a draft report after reviewing both cumulative and quarterly data for the project after the last reporting quarter (1/19/07). The report was scheduled for review by the Deputy Commissioner on March 1, 2007 and will be made available on our website shortly thereafter. In the meantime any questions, concerns or inquiries are welcome.

Contact information for each project is posted on the Office of Child and Family Services web page.

CSB Services in Juvenile Detention Centers

The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) continues to provide funding for 14 community services boards for the provision of mental health screening, assessment services, and community based referrals for children in the local juvenile detention facility. Currently programs are in operation at:

- Alexandria CSB/Northern VA Detention Home
- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health/Roanoke Detention Center
- Colonial CSB/Merrimac Detention Center
- Danville CSB/W.W. Moore Detention Center
- New River Valley CSB/New River Valley Detention Home
- Region 10 CSB/Blue Ridge Detention Center
- Central Virginia CSB/Lynchburg Juvenile Detention Center
- Chesapeake CSB/Chesapeake Juvenile Justice Center
- Chesterfield CSB/Chesterfield Juvenile Detention Home
- Crossroads CSB/Piedmont Juvenile Detention Home
- Norfolk CSB/Norfolk Juvenile Detention Home
- Planning District One Behavioral Health/Highlands Juvenile Detention Home
- Richmond Behavioral Health/Richmond Juvenile Detention Home

- Valley CSB/Shenandoah Juvenile Justice Center

It is DMHMRSAS' belief that these programs serve to increase local system capacity to identify and intervene in the lives of children involved in the juvenile justice system. Some highlights of the projects' current accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Psychiatric hospitalizations for children in juvenile detention centers have decreased over 50% in areas where a program exists, resulting in only 13 in-patient referrals being made for FY06 in the affected areas.
- In FY 06, over 700 community based referrals for services were made.

During this calendar year, children in these programs have been provided: assessments, over 780 youth; individual counseling to 509 youth; group counseling to 538 youth; crisis intervention to 87 youth; and only 5 youth referred for inpatient services. With existing resources, DMHMRSAS projects that during the FY 07; over 2000 children will be served by these projects.

Women's Services

Project LINK

The Project LINK service manual has been updated and is now available to CSBs that wish to enhance their services for pregnant and parenting substance using women. Project LINK is an interagency, community-based collaborative program funded by DMHMRSAS that provides intensive case management services to pregnant, parenting and "at risk" substance using women in selected communities. The 8 Project LINK sites serve 14 CSBs: 6 sites are located at individual CSBs while the two most recently funded sites serve neighboring CSBs. Project LINK's mission is to "assure that all women whose lives are affected by substance use are linked with resources that foster their physical, emotional, spiritual and family well-being". Through the use of innovative linkages with community providers, LINK strives to provide a continuum of care integrating prevention, early intervention, and treatment services with health care and other human and supportive services. The actual services provided by each site vary;

however, each site provides intensive case management and wrap around services and link women with needed services that exist within their community.

Although DMHMRSAS is not able to provide additional funds to start up new Project LINK sites, CSBs interested in enhancing their services may request copies of the Project LINK manual and/or resources. For additional information or to obtain a manual please contact Martha Kurgans. If you'd like more information regarding the Project LINK in your area or wish to make a referral contact:

Single Site Project LINKs

- Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Project LINK (Roanoke): Martha Allman (540) 344-2891
- District 19 CSB Project LINK (Petersburg): Rachael Gillus (804) 863-1689
- Hampton/Newport News CSB Project LINK: Patty Hartigan (757) 788-0500
- Rappahannock Area CSB Project LINK: Dee Bryant (540) 891-3132
- Region Ten CSB Project LINK: Courtney Davis (434) 970-1498
- Virginia Beach CSB Project LINK: Cleriece Whitehill (757) 437-5783

Collaborative Project LINKs

- Northern Virginia Project LINK (serves Fairfax-Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, Prince William & Loudon CSBs): Sandi Sale (703) 934-5467
- Cumberland Project LINK (serves Cumberland, Dickenson & PD1 CSBs): Susan Raines (276) 935-7154

Commonwealth Partnership

The Commonwealth Partnership for Women and Children Affected by Substance Use is a collaboration of service providers, agency representatives and community members from across the Commonwealth whose mission is "To support the development and improvement of substance abuse prevention and treatment services for women and children." The Partnership meets quarterly and serves in an advisory capacity to DMHMRSAS. The Partnership offers participants an opportunity to identify needed resources and services, participate in community

planning and policy development, learn more about services offered across the Commonwealth and network with other service providers. Membership is open to anyone committed to supporting the Partnership's mission and includes professionals across the service delivery systems e.g. substance abuse, health, child welfare, criminal justice etc. The Partnerships meeting schedule for 2007 is:

- Feb. 22, Henrico CSB East (4825 S. Laburnum Avenue); Richmond
- May 24, Location TBD
- August 23, Location TBD
- November 29, Richmond

For more information regarding the Partnership or to be put on the mailing list for meetings contact Carolyn Seaman, Partnership Chair, at 804 -819-4184 / seamanc@rbha.org.

Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

Putting the Pieces Together for Children and Families; the National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Courts was held January 31-February 2 , 2007 and a pre-conference symposium, Behavior and the Brain: Prevention and Intervention for Children Across the Developmental Stages, presented by the Children's Research Triangle, was held January 30th. Presentations from the conference will soon be posted and can be accessed through the Child and Families Future website at <http://www.cffutures.org> or the National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare <http://www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov>

Project TREAT

The Interagency Workgroup for Project TREAT (Training and Resources for Effective Adolescent Treatment) has focused on identifying and prioritizing issues affecting services to adolescents and their families. Public Input groups with consumers and providers were conducted at four locations in the state to gather additional perspective and information to this process. Greg Brittingham, a facilitator from VCU, is guiding the group to develop recommendations for 330F and to prepare for the next step of developing a strategic plan.

The Knowledge Exposure on Adolescent Evidence Based Practices continued with its fifth and sixth trainings held in Newport News and Fairfax. Upcoming trainings are scheduled for Charlottesville on February 28 and in Danville on March 6. For more information contact Susan Pauley. Previous trainings have been held in Abingdon, Roanoke, Staunton, Richmond, Newport News and Fairfax with approximately 400 attendees representing CSBs, social services, health departments, juvenile justice, schools, CSAs, facilities, private providers and faith groups.

The Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (Art Mayer), The Mid-Atlantic ATTC (Missy Barker and Wayne Conner), and Project TREAT (Malcolm King) are collaborating on a technical assistance and training initiative which will result in the skill based training of staff and supervisors in Motivational Interviewing, and in the Cannabis Youth Treatment model MET/CBT5 and CBT7. Meetings are underway with supervisors and the skill-based trainings begin in March. These evidence-based practices will be incorporated into the delivery of treatment at seven Juvenile Correctional Facilities.

Guidelines and application forms for technical assistance and skill based training were mailed out in early January with a letter from Commissioner Reinhardt inviting the CSBs and facilities to apply. There are two cycles of TA and training available and the deadline for applications for cycle 1 is April 30, 2007. Applications are reviewed for completeness and technical assistance begins after the review. The CSBs may invite their community partners to participate in the TA and training as appropriate.

A focus group facilitated by Project TREAT staff for representatives of SAARA, Virginia Federation of Families, and Moms Tell was held on January 23 in Central Virginia. This was the first step in a strategy to develop a statewide family and consumer advocacy network for adolescent needs and services. Training for family members in effective advocacy skills will be offered in two sites in the near future.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

System of Care Conference Planning

The DMHMRSAS Office of Child and Family Services in collaboration with the Virginia Commission on Youth will co-sponsor a conference, "Using Evidence Based Practices Within Systems of Care for Children", scheduled for September 16-18, 2007 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. A multi-agency and stakeholder committee continues to meet to develop plans for the conference. We will keep you posted.

Virginia Summer Institute for Addiction Studies (VSIAS) 2007

Martha Kurgans is working with the VSIAS 2007 planning committee to develop a Women's Track at the 2007 Institute. Topics and speakers identified thus far include Norma Finkelstein PhD (women, trauma and co-occurring disorders), Kathy Sanders-Phillips PhD (women, girls and culturally diverse populations) Naomi Weinstein (substance abuse and child welfare), Karen Ingersoll PhD (motivational interviewing with pregnant and parenting women) and Michelle Tuten PhD. (contingency management).

One full scholarship will be available to a women's treatment service provider at each CSB.

Information regarding the Women's Scholarships will be released in late February 2007.

Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Early Intervention Conference

The Fifth Annual Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Early Intervention Conference, Creating Connections: Strengthening Partnerships between Families and Providers, will be held March 19-20, 2007 at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Serena Wieder and Dr. Kathleen Hebbeler. Dr. Wieder is a well-known clinical psychologist who has pioneered the foremost approaches to diagnosing and treating infant and toddlers with infant mental health disorders and developmental challenges. Dr. Kathleen Hebbeler, the Manager of the Community Services and Strategies Program in the Center for Education and Human Services and

is directing the Early Childhood Outcomes Center, which is a 5-year project designed to build consensus and provide nation leadership around issues related to the measurement of outcomes for young children with disabilities and their families.

Session topics for the conference include Social-Emotional Development; Current Trends and Issues; Outcomes; Autism; Transition; Family and Parenting Issues; Medicaid Updates; etc. Registration information and forms are available on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website at www.infantva.org.

VACSB Spring Conference

The Office of Child and Family Services will sponsor several presentations at the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards spring conference in Portsmouth May 2- 4. In conjunction with the VACSB, OCFS has invited several speakers to present: Dean Fixen PhD will present on implementing Evidence Based Practices (EBP). Dr Fixen is a research professor at the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute and is involved in establishing a national center for research on program dissemination and implementation, the National Implementation Research Network. Vickey Hardy Murell, the Director of the Virginia Federation of Families and Carol Obrochta will present on providing family-driven services within a system of care for children. Randy Muck, Program Director with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will present on "Treating Adolescents with Substance Use Disorders: Moving to Recovery Through Evidence-Based Approaches". Mr Muck is responsible for SAMHSA's 16 State Adolescent Treatment Coordination grants as well as SAMHSA's Child and Adolescent Mental Health & Substance Abuse State Infrastructure Grants (CA-SIG). OCFS is also in the process of identifying a speaker for a pre-conference event May 1st who will address trauma and developing trauma sensitive services for youth.

This Update is also available at <http://www.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov/CFS-default.htm>

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